

Mary Province
Stokely Vaughn's grandmother
information provided by: Phyllis Phillips

Excerpt from newspaper article dictated on the phone by Stokely Vaughn to Monroe County Indiana Newspaper

Mr. Stokely Vaughn's Grandmother was stolen by the Indians from her home near the Virginia-Kentucky line when she was seven years old. Her name was **Mary Province** and she was with the Indians during seven years of wandering. She told afterward they went around "heap big water" which she learned later was the Great Lakes. They spent a winter when there were a lot of Indians and many white captives. This place was the Indian camp ground near Peru, where **Frances Slocum** lived. The wanderings of the Indians took them through sandy deserts where cactus grew. At the end of seven years they came to Clinch river in Kentucky. The girl was then fourteen years old and in all her wanderings had never seen a river where the water was red except the one that ran near her home, the Clinch River at that time being quite red.

She had studied her plan of escape and one moonlit night rode away on her pony. She realized the river was too wide to ford so made her way at night and hid in thickets in the day time. At the end of two days travel up the river familiar scenes met her eyes, but people were alarmed, fearing an attack by Indians and she found no welcome until she found a relative. Discarding her Indian garb she made herself known and was warmly welcomed home. Many of the things learned from the Indians remained with her through life. She was skilled in the use of the bow and arrow and greatly enjoyed shooting arrows with her grandsons. She lived to be very old.

Mary may have been born as early as 1750 and lived into her 90s which would mean that she lived until 1840-1850. Stokely said she lived until she was "very old".

In 1840 Hawkins Co TN Census Image 112, Henry Province was a neighbor to Nancy Vaughan, born 1805, widow of Wilson Vaughan, born abt 1800?. Henry may be a relative to the Vaughan or Bowlin/g family.

Thank you,

Phyllis Phillips

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May 2006